

**Tippecanoe County Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 4, 2017  
10:00 am  
Tippecanoe Room, Tippecanoe County Office Building  
20 N 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana**

Commissioners present: President Tracy A. Brown, Vice President Thomas P. Murtaugh, and Member David S. Byers.

Also present: Attorney Doug Masson, Auditor Robert Plantenga, Commissioners' Assistant Paula Bennett, and Recording Secretary John Thomas.

#### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Brown called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from Monday, November 20, 2017

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the minutes as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

#### **III. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL- PAULA BENNETT**

The claims from November 24, 2017 through December 4, 2017, including payroll from December 1, 2017 were recommended for approval without exception.

- Commissioner Dave Byers moved to approve the Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll as presented, second by Commissioner Tom Murtaugh. Motion carried.

#### **IV. HIGHWAY- STEWART KLINE**

**Opening of Bids for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel.** There was one bid from Ceres Solutions.

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to accept the bid as submitted, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

**Opening of Bids for Rental of Equipment.** There were two bids: Rieth Riley and Milestone Contractors.

- Commissioner Dave Byers moved to accept the bids as submitted, second by Commissioner Tom Murtaugh. Motion carried.

**Klondike Construction Plan Approval.** Construction is scheduled to start in the spring of 2018.

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve signing the title sheet of the construction plan as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

#### **V. COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – JASON HUBER**

**Memorandum of Understanding between Tippecanoe County Community Corrections and Almost Home Humane Society-Participants and Animals Working toward Success.** Programs like this have several benefits for those in Community Corrections: decreased recidivism, decreased aggression, a greater sense of pride from teamwork and volunteering.

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

## VI. YOUTH SERVICES – REBECCA HUMPHREY

**Contract for Quality Assurance Coordination** with Lindsay Wright. This is a continuation of an existing contract.

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the contract as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

**Amendment to Professional Services Agreement to continue Multisystemic Therapy.**

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the Amendment to the Agreement as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

**Contract for Psychological Evaluations for Superior Court 3**

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the Contract with Dr. James Ascough as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

## VII. CASA – COLEEN CONNOR

**New Position.** This is part of a pilot program in 8 Indiana counties between the courts, CASA and the Department of Child Services. It creates a triage to help determine the needs of abused and neglected kids. It is a one-year state funded program that may become an ongoing program if successful.

- Commissioner Dave Byers moved to approve the new position as presented, second by Commissioner Tom Murtaugh. Motion carried.

## VIII. MITS – TOM MURTAUGH FOR DAVE STERGEON

**Telephone Service Agreement with Earthlink for Purdue Cooperative Extension Office.** It is a three-year agreement that will be less expensive for the County.

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the Agreement as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

## IX. TREASURER – JENNIFER WESTON

**Surety Bond Renewal** for Jennifer Weston.

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the 2018 Surety Bond Renewal as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

**Memorandum of Understanding between Tippecanoe County and the Indiana Association of Indiana Counties – Tax Refund Exchange and Compliance System (TRECS) Program.** This is a program that intercepts state tax refunds for delinquent local proper tax payments. If successful it could return potentially \$400,000-\$800,000 over the next several years. Jacque Clements also spoke from AIC and stated that there were 14 Counties selected for the program in addition to Indianapolis.

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

**Introduction of Commercial Card Program.** Proposals for credit card services were received from two qualifying vendors. A policy for their use and agreement for services will be developed and submitted to the Commissioners for approval at a later date.

## X. RECORDER – SHANNON WITHERS

**Surety Bond Renewal** for Shannon Withers.

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the 2018 Surety Bond Renewal as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

**XI. GRANTS- SHARON HUTCHISON.** No information presented.

**XII. RESOLUTION 2017-34-CM, TRANSFER OF PROPERTIES TO THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE.**

The Commissioners are authorized by state law to transfer tax certificates for property that did not sell in the property tax sales.

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the Transfer as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

**XIII. RESOLUTION 2017-35-CM, EXTENSION OF SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

The commissioners opened the public input by asking Dr. Adler for an update.

**Dr. Jeremy Adler** provided a background and update of the "Gateway to Hope" (GTH) syringe exchange program accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. He provided information on the location, hour of operation, their referral program, number of Hepatitis C and HIV cases they track, the number of participants and their socioeconomic profiles, the number of syringes distributed, and the number of syringes turned in. He reiterated that the program is in response to a declared public health emergency due to Hepatitis C infections and deserves more time. He recommended that the program be extended for another year.

**Khala Hochstedler** is the nursing supervisor for the Health Departments syringe exchange and read testimonials from users about the benefits of the program.

**Dennis Stover** is from the Indiana State Department of Health and spoke about the state and national perspective. He stated that HepC affects all communities across the country, crosses all sectors and that these types of programs protect and save lives.

**Kirsten Gibson** read a letter from a friend who worked in Scott County for IU Health about her experience and the need for syringe exchange programs.

**Brianna Hubner** is a mother with small children in the clinic neighborhood and is concerned for her family's safety.

**Lauren Murfree** has a MS in nursing and relayed her experience from her Appalachian home town in Pennsylvania where the HepC epidemic affected everyone and there was not a syringe exchange program. She encouraged the Commissioners to extend the program.

**Andrew Wakefield** is a PU pharmacy student and felt the program was working because more needles are being brought in than go out, and that people's fears about syringe exchange programs are not born out by the research.

**Nicole Noel** is a community pharmacist and stated that there were over 418,000 prescriptions of opioids dispensed in Tippecanoe County during 2016 and that the program is for harm reduction for anyone who come in contact with syringes.

**Annie Selak** is a downtown homeowner who sees no change in crime or her sense of vulnerability and is in favor of the program

**Michelle Higgins** is a graduate of the pharmacy program at Purdue and works in a community setting. She is in favor of the program because it is a way to safely dispose of needles.

**Taylor Sloan** is in the pharmacy program at Purdue and noted that the GTH is paid by private contributions and grants.

**Michael Campbell** is in the pharmacy program at Purdue and felt the program is an asset to the community.

**Corey Fortwendel** is from southern Indiana and is concerned about accidental needle sticks in our neighborhoods, by police and by EMTs.

**Dr. James Bien** is with IU Health stated that the science was sound, and the program is needed to relieve harm.

**Rhonda Stine** lost a son to an overdose and felt that the program saves lives.

**Dr. Carrie Lawrence** is with IU Health is concerned about HIV/HepC in jails and stated that there is a 90-day waiting list to get mental health assistance. He felt that the program is needed to mitigate harm and provide a link to health care.

**Jared Stancombe** is with IU Health and is familiar with the Lawrence County experience. He stated that the program reduces potential harm because the needles are out there with or without the program.

**David Sanders** stated that the program is about reducing the transmission of infectious diseases and that the diseases don't respect county boundaries.

**Peter Bunder** stated that the majority of the West Lafayette City Council want the program to continue and is interested to know where needles have been found in West Lafayette.

**Sunny Asaf** participated in the needle sweep the Health Department conducted and noted that the needles found were not from GTH.

**Barbara Dixon** lives on 6<sup>th</sup> Street one block from the Health Department and felt that the location of the needle exchange is inappropriate in the neighborhood and should be in a medical facility.

**Elizabeth Mork** lives next to the Health Department on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and stated that there were 11 home owners on the street and that the programs location should not be close to parks, schools or residential neighborhoods.

**Jean Hall** felt that the needle exchange was a good hypothesis but so is the possibility that it will expand illegal use. He asked for better documentation on the reduction of IV use and the spread of IV diseases.

**Kay Conner** is from the neighborhood and isn't against the needle exchange but is against the location.

**Michael Hunt** lives in the neighborhood and agrees there is a health problem. He feels that it should be not in a mobile unit but is a medical issue that IU Health should help and be housed facility "under roof" where treatment and referrals can be provided.

There was discussion between Dr. Adler and the Commissioners that:

- Finding a more suitable location is a key need and that the Health Department will continue to work with the local medical community to find a better location.
- The definition of success needs to be better defined so it can be measured (referrals, returns, reduction in cases, etc.).
- The program is only part of the solution.
- The syringe return rate needs to improve.
- The program needs to be provided regularly from a consistent location ("under roof").
- Commissioner Dave Byers moved to approve a one-year extension as presented, second by Commissioner Tracy Brown. Motion carried with a "No" vote from Commissioner Tom Murtaugh.

#### **XIV. PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR 1950 S 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

The Commissioners attorney Doug Masson stated that the YMCA Foundation is the owner and has agreed to sell the property to the county for \$1.2 million. Commissioner Tracy Brown said that he would not vote because he is on the YMCA Board.

- Commissioner Dave Byers moved to authorize Tom Murtaugh to sign the agreement as presented, second by Commissioner Tom Murtaugh. Motion carried with Commissioner Tracy Brown abstaining.

## **XV. UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

### **Resolution 2017-36-CM, Transfer of property to the town of Otterbein.**

- Commissioner Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the Transfer as presented, second by Commissioner Dave Byers. Motion carried.

### **Deferred Compensation Plan – Bob Plantenga**

Indiana law and the County budget allows the County to match employee's contribution to the Hoosier Start Program. Auditor Bob Plantenga was directed to draft a policy for Commissioners review and consideration at a later date.

## **XVI. REPORTS ON FILE**

The following reports will be available for public viewing in the Commissioners' office:

- Tippecanoe County Building Commission

## **XVII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

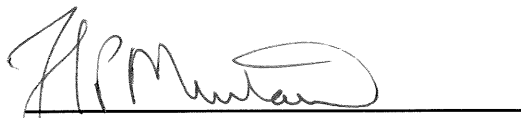
Mary Hall chronicled what she saw as the demise of the United States (the increase in: crime rate, number of Christian schools and home schooling) since the separation of church and state, prayer was taken out of school and the nativity banned from the courthouse grounds.

Commissioner Dave Byers moved to adjourn. President Brown/ Commissioner adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE**



Tracy A. Brown, President



Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice-President



David S. Byers, Member

ATTEST:



Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor 12/4/2017